

Rare Animals of Louisiana



Mole Kingsnake

Lampropeltis calligaster rhombomaculata

Rarity Rank: S1S2/G5T5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure



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Identification:

- Average of 76 to 102 cm in length
- Dorsum orange-tan, tan or medium brown with transverse red to dark brown blotches
- Crown marked by a spear-shaped mark
- Venter dull white to gray with irregular darker markings

Habitat:

- Found in thickets, woodlots, cultivated fields and occasionally back yards in suburban areas
- Those from LA found in upland longleaf pine woods and pine flatwoods

Food habits:

Lizards, small snakes, shrews, and small rodents

Range:

The coastal plains through the Fall Line hills of the Appalachians

Reproduction:

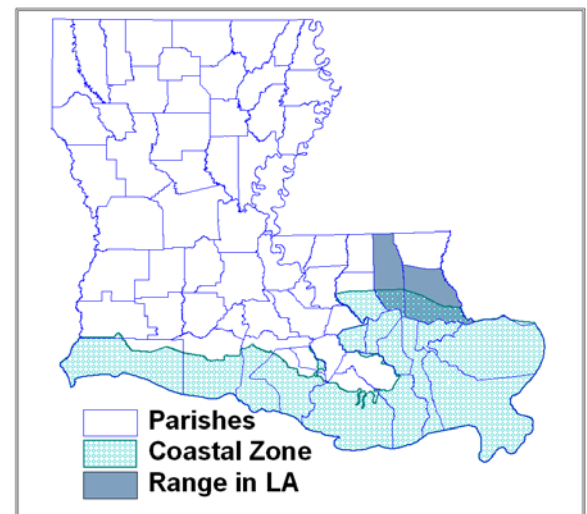
Oviparous, laying 3 to 13 (average 8) eggs

Threats:

- Vehicular traffic causes death, and may have an impact on habitat
- Agricultural and urban development reduces habitat

LA River Basins:

Pearl, Pontchartrain



Range based on occurrences in Natural Heritage database

References:

Conant, Roger, and Joseph T. Collins. A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America. Third Edition, Expanded. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1998. 376-377.

Palmer, William, Alvin Braswell. 1995. Reptiles of North Carolina. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill: 179-182.